**UNITED NATIONS** **S**

**Security Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/497
30 April 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 30 APRIL 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, the letter dated 30 April 1999 from His Excellency Mr. Zivadin Jovanovic, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, concerning the arbitrary and illegitimate decision of the Council of the European Union to ban the shipment of oil and oil derivatives to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 30 April 1999 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to inform you and the Security Council of the arbitrary and illegitimate decision of the Council of the European Union to impose unilaterally a ban on the shipment of oil and oil derivatives to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as of other unilateral and coercive economic prohibitions and restrictions threatening the rights, property and economic interests of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its citizens. At the same time, the member States of the European Union call on, and pressure, other countries to join the implementation of these illegitimate measures against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The decision of the European Union constitutes a flagrant violation of the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly of the principles of equality of States, as well as the principle of the work of the United Nations Security Council, the only competent body to consider and adopt coercive measures against a United Nations Member State. According to Article 53 of the Charter of the United Nations, no regional agency can take an enforcement action against a sovereign country without the authorization of the Security Council.

I recall that, by its resolution 53/4 of 14 October 1998, the General Assembly of the United Nations called on all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures having the extraterritorial effects and affecting the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation and to respect the principles and obligations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The General Assembly of the United Nations calls by this resolution on all States that apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal and invalidate them as soon as possible.

Likewise, the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations points out that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or other measures for the purpose of exerting pressure on another State in order to ensure in that way the subjugation of the realization of its sovereign rights.

The said measures of the European Union are also contrary to the letter and spirit of the Helsinki document and the Paris Charter of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

I wish to draw your attention and the attention of the Security Council that the consequences of the said decision of the European Union will be manifold and unforeseeable both for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its citizens and for the countries of the region. They will primarily affect the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, their human rights and social

and other living conditions of the population, which already suffers enormous consequences of the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

European Union measures will influence the further deepening of the economic and technological gap between the region and other parts of Europe, which is a basis of long-term destabilization of the region. All countries of our region already bear serious consequences and suffer enormous damage because of the cessation of navigation on the Danube, caused by the demolition of a number of bridges, as well as the destruction of main infrastructure communication lines, including European corridor E-10 whereby normal economic flows have been stopped, communication links interrupted, long-term trade exchange threatened, etc. At the same time, such a decision of the European Union is contrary to its declared regional approach based on the Royaumont Initiative for South-east Europe.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as a Member State of the United Nations, calls on the Security Council of the United Nations to condemn the illegitimate decisions of the European Union on coercive economic measures against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, proclaim them null and void and demand that, in accordance with international legal norms, the unilateral illegal activities taken by the countries of the European Union against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia be ceased immediately.

(Signed) Zivadin JOVANOVIC

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